

Prospectus

THE  
NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA:

A

Popular Dictionary

OF

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

EDITED BY

GEORGE RIPLEY AND CHARLES A. DANA,

AIDED BY A

NUMEROUS SELECT CORPS OF WRITERS IN ALL BRANCHES OF SCIENCE, ART, AND LITERATURE

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# PROSPECTUS

OF

## THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA.



I.—The design of THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA is to furnish the great body of intelligent readers in this country with a popular Dictionary of General Knowledge.

II.—THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA is not founded on any European model ; in its plan and elaboration it is strictly original, and strictly American. Many of the writers employed on the work have enriched it with their personal researches, observations, and discoveries ; and every article has been written, or re-written, expressly for its pages.

III.—It is intended that the work shall bear such a character of practical utility as to make it indispensable to every American library.

IV.—Throughout its successive volumes THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA will present a fund of accurate and copious information on

SCIENCE,  
ART,  
AGRICULTURE,  
COMMERCE,  
MANUFACTURES,  
LAW,  
MEDICINE,

LITERATURE,  
PHILOSOPHY,  
MATHEMATICS,  
ASTRONOMY,  
HISTORY,  
BIOGRAPHY,  
GEOGRAPHY,

RELIGION,  
POLITICS,  
TRAVELS,  
CHEMISTRY,  
MECHANICS,  
INVENTIONS,  
TRADES.

In HISTORY it will give, not merely a catalogue of barren dates, but a copious narrative, under their appropriate heads, of the principal events in the annals of the world.

In GEOGRAPHY and ETHNOLOGY it will embody all the remarkable results of original investigation which so brilliantly distinguish the present century.

In BIOGRAPHY it will not only record the lives of men eminent in the past, but will devote a large space to sketches of distinguished living persons, prepared by writers who, from locality, personal acquaintance, or special research, are most competent to do them complete and unbiased justice.

AGRICULTURE, in all its branches, will have the most careful attention.

The INDUSTRIAL ARTS, and that PRACTICAL SCIENCE which has an immediate bearing on the necessities of daily life, such as Domestic Economy, Ventilation, the Heating of Houses, Food, etc., will be treated of with the thoroughness which their great importance demands.

V.—Abstaining from all doctrinal discussions, from all sectional and sectarian arguments, it will maintain the position of absolute impartiality on the great controverted questions which have divided opinions in every age.

The History of Religious Sects will be written, as far as possible, by distinguished members of the different denominations, respectively, who have made their history and doctrines a special study.



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VI.—In the preparation of the present volume, nearly a hundred collaborators have assisted, including persons in almost every part of the United States, in Great Britain, and on the Continent of Europe, whose names have attained an honorable distinction, each in some special branch of learning.

VII.—As far as is consistent with thoroughness of research and exactness of statement, the popular method has been pursued. By condensation and brevity, the Editors have been enabled to introduce a much greater variety of subjects than is usually found in similar works, and thus to enhance the value of THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA, as a Manual of Universal Reference. At the same time, an entertaining style has been aimed at, wherever it would not interfere with more important considerations.

VIII.—All the latest intelligence on every topic has been procured, and the information brought down to the very day of printing.

In fine, nothing has been left undone to render THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA the best, as well as the most recent, work of General Reference in the English language.

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The following digest of a few leading notices will serve to show HOW THE PROMISES OF THE PROSPECTUS ARE ENDORSED BY THE PRESS:—

### *Its American Character.*

#### **From the N. Y. Times.**

The result confers upon the New Cyclopædia a peculiarly American character of practical and immediate utility.

#### **From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.**

Indeed, while in some respects it may present no advantages over European works of a similar character, it is far superior to them in all that pertains to this part of the globe, and is pre-eminently an American Cyclopædia.

#### **From the N. Y. Evening Post.**

A prominence, we observe, is very properly given to American Biography, Geography, and Industry, which could hardly be expected, and is never found, in foreign Cyclopædias; and subjects sufficiently well treated in other works are here presented from an American point of view, or in their American relations.

#### **From the Springfield Republican.**

In Europe, owing to the aristocratic forms of government, and their complex political relations, those whose republican sympathies and acts have caused them to be marked or banished, cannot find a place even in the best Cyclopædias; or, if mentioned at all, they are denounced as schismatics and traitors. On the contrary, in this work, such men—instancing Silvio Pellico, deceased, and Mazzini, living—will appear, with a simple record of their deeds.

#### **From the Providence Journal.**

The New American Cyclopædia bids fair, from its extent, variety, and exactness of information, to be the best adapted to the wants of the American people of any similar publications, whether in this country or in England.

#### **From the Philadelphia Press.**

Such are the leading features of this new, we might say this National, work; for every line has been expressly written for the work itself, and most of it by American citizens.

#### **From the Boston Courier.**

This volume contains, between "A" and "Araguay," no less than 2490 separate articles, while the English Penny Cyclopædia, within the same limits, has only 750—the American beating the Englishman more than three to one.

#### **From the N. Y. Evangelist.**

The New Cyclopædia surpasses all others in the space given to our own country—its natural features and resources,—and to American History and Biography.

#### **From the Springfield Republican.**

Such are instances of the thoroughness with which modern times and American movements are laid under tribute to enrich this New American Cyclopædia.



**From the Charleston Mercury.**

The articles of the first volume include all that are found in European works of the same class, and to these is added a vast body of new material, entirely American.

**From the Boston Post.**

This is good; it is creditable to Young America. Brockhaus, of Leipzig, broke five times before he finished his Cyclopædia, and took ten years to publish his first volume. The English Cyclopædias are dispensed to the public like medicine,—a teaspoonful every three years.

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## Its Practical Utility.

**From the Charleston Mercury.**

Such a work is a great desideratum, and, furnishing, as it were, a complete library in itself, will save the expense and the labor of keeping, and searching through, a thousand other volumes.

**From the N. Y. Chronicle.**

We have found it clear, succinct in its statements, profound in its views, learned and comprehensive in its materials, and full of the information which one expects to obtain from a book of reference.

**From the St. Louis Democrat.**

The value of a work of this kind, to every man of intelligence and learning, can hardly be estimated; it will surprise us if this Cyclopædia does not find its way into the homes, and to the firesides, of nearly every intelligent family in the Union.

**From the Richmond Examiner.**

It will really be a Dictionary of Universal Knowledge. The scholar and professional man will find it stored with references in every sphere of learned inquiry.

**From the Boston Post.**

In future we may dispense with such books as "Men of the Times," and kindred collections, and refer only to this New Cyclopædia. This is a great advantage to newspaper editors and schools—instead of referring to a number of special dictionaries, we have here all useful information in one and the same book.

**From the Baltimore American.**

Every subject to which a student, or man of general information, may desire to refer, will be found in this work properly classified. There is no doubt it will be the standard of reference in every library, public and private.

**From the Boston Courier.**

If the editors go on as they have begun, they will make a work of great value, which everybody must have who has any hooks at all.

**From the Indianapolis Daily Journal.**

If one has forgotten a name, when a historical character lived, how to build a bridge, what the teachings of Aristotle were, where a South Sea Island lies, what a Congressional measure may have been, what the latest scientific developments are—he has only to turn to his "Appleton," and find just what he wants.

**From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.**

That a Cyclopædia, prepared with such ability and so faithfully, must be of great utility, is so obvious that praise would be superfluous. The bare mention of the characteristics of the work will be sufficient to recommend it to a place in every well-chosen library, and especially every American library.

**From the Boston Pilot.**

It is a perfect treasury of knowledge, in all branches of the arts and sciences, in literature, history, biography, and geography.

**From the Springfield Republican.**

The want of a Cyclopædia, at once full, accurate, lucid and popular, has long been felt, and the Messrs. Appleton have undertaken to supply one which, while avoiding all the abstruseness of the large European compendiums, will amply satisfy the scholar, the mechanic, and the merchant.

**From the New Jersey Journal.**

The result is an original work of practical utility for every-day consultation, which, while it contains every thing useful in the large European Encyclopædias, may yet be considered a complete compendium of facts in reference to every subject of human inquiry.

**From the N. Y. Day-Book.**

A work of this kind forms a store-house to which authors, editors, teachers, scholars,—all resort for information and instruction.

**From the Pittsburg Gazette.**

It is intended as a hand-book,—as much so as is a dictionary of the language; and as such it deserves a place in every library.



## Its Impartiality.

### From the N. Y. Evening Post.

The editors have been very successful in avoiding the expression of opinions upon controverted topics, and have confined themselves with singular fidelity to the statement of facts, without biasing the reader in his interpretation of them.

### From the Freeman's Journal.

The professions and aim of the editors are evidently of the most liberal kind. We believe they are sincerely desirous of doing their work accurately and impartially.

### From the Boston Courier.

We think the editors have adhered to their promise of impartiality; at least the biographies of John Adams and John Quincy Adams make good their professions; and these are men whom it is pretty difficult not to contemplate from a partisan point of view. These eminent men are, on the whole, fairly weighed in the balance.

### From the N. Y. Evangelist.

In looking over a number of sketches of living biography—in which the work is especially rich—we have not observed a single departure from the proprieties of such a work, or one in which private feeling has influenced the notice of a contemporary. As to religious topics—not once have we detected the slightest inclination to insinuate an unfavorable opinion in regard to any sect or creed; nor would such, if inserted by a contributor, be tolerated for an instant. Some of the most eminent orthodox professors in the country are engaged to write leading articles on theological subjects, and we believe that clergymen, who shall examine the work with care, will be delighted with its uniform fairness, and its high tone of manliness and dignity.

### From the Woonsocket Patriot.

The biographical articles, we notice, are full, and prepared with both care and candor—a characteristic that prevails throughout the volume.

### From the National Intelligencer.

The amount of new matter embraced in this volume, the absence of individual opinion and invidious criticism, the general impartiality, as well as learning, of the articles on religion, biography, and politics, will strike the reader, we think, with peculiar force.

### From the N. Y. Day-Book.

The work furnishes sketches, remarkable for justice and impartiality, of living persons of eminence. We have seldom seen a more careful, and apparently unbiased, judgment of living men than can be found in this production. The nice questions of American politics, the careers of American statesmen, of Southern politicians, are all handled fairly and delicately. As particular instances of this justice, we notice the sketches of Governors Aiken and Allston of South Carolina, and the narrative of the life of John Quincy Adams.

### From the N. Y. Courier & Enquirer.

The work is executed in a catholic spirit, and, on the whole, with great accuracy. Only those who have had occasion to examine closely similar books, can appreciate the difficulty there is in procuring articles free from evidences of the sectarian, social, or personal predilections of the writers, and in securing absolute correctness upon such a wide range of subjects. In the present instance, it is very rarely, according to our partial examination, that even the individual bias of the editors toward this or that system, creed, or school, appears.

### From the Brooklyn Eagle.

The very impartial article on John Quincy Adams is equally interesting from the prominent part filled by him in his country's career, and we recommend a careful perusal of it to the politician of the present day.

### From the Boston Post.

Here we find the writer striking the right chord—suppressing all unnecessary phraseology, and leaving the reader to draw his own inference. This is as it should be; a cyclopædia should never be critical or polemical, but always philosophical and scholarly.

### From the Baltimore American.

Many distinguished divines—Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Orthodox, and Unitarian—have signified their approval of the work; and among the subscribers in New York, we find the well-known names of Archbishop Hughes, Bishop Potter, Bishop Janes, Dr. Higbee, Dr. Adams, Dr. Bellows, Rev. E. H. Chapin, and Henry Ward Beecher.

### From the National Era.

Pledged to abstain from doctrinal, sectarian, or sectional discussions, it presents, so far as we have examined its articles, both sides of controverted topics with reasonable fulness and strict fairness.

### From the Poughkeepsie Examiner.

A prominent feature of the Cyclopædia is its impartiality—the absence of all dogmas and isms, political, religious, or personal. This is particularly noticeable in the biographical portions of the work.

### From the N. Y. Chronicle.

As far as was consistent with the nature of the case, the editors have confined themselves to the historical relation of facts, without assuming the functions of advocates or judges. In instances which seemed to demand a positive verdict, they have endeavored to present an exhibition of evidence rather than an illustration of argument.



**From the Charleston Mercury.**

The editors have done their duty with justice, fairness, and liberality. We see no instance of partisanship or partiality, and as yet no proofs of that hostile sectionality of which we have hitherto had reason, in all such publications, to complain.

**From the Pittsburg Chronicle.**

The subjects appear to be treated in a free, frank, broad, unprejudiced, and comprehensive manner. Controversial discussions on points of science, philosophy, religion, politics, do not enter within the scope or compass of the plan; facts are recorded, and opinions, only so far as they are known, or believed, to be facts.

**From the Boston Pilot.**

We, of course, look at the work from a Catholic point of view; and even here we find nothing but what the fair promises of impartiality in the preface would lead us to expect. In the New American Cyclopædia, we rejoice to say, we find an exception to the general rule of misrepresentation and falsehood.

**From the Boston Transcript.**

The care observed in gathering personal facts, and the absence of all partisanship and prejudice in the discussion of historical questions, render the New Cyclopædia a work which not only supplies a great want, but illustrates the high scholarship and noblest eclecticism of thought among us.

## The Number and Ability of its Contributors.

**From the Christian Advocate.**

This great work has upwards of a hundred contributors from different parts of the world, who, under the direction of its able editors, will produce the most complete and thorough Cyclopædia extant.

**From the Indianapolis Daily Journal.**

Appletons' New Cyclopædia we hold to be the best extant—not only because it is the latest, but because it is compiled by men entirely competent, and prepared by the ablest scholars in the world, in the particular departments allotted them.

**From the Providence Daily Journal.**

All this could only be accomplished by many contributors, familiar with every topic treated; and such we find has been the case, permanent arrangements having been made with a large number of distinguished writers, both in Europe and America.

**From the Philadelphia Press.**

The materials for such a work as this are to be found, above all, in the personal knowledge of the large corps of contributors (nearly one hundred in number), whose coöperation has been made available for this great labor. Of these writers, as we have said, the majority are American citizens; but many writers in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe have been pressed into the service, and have rendered efficient aid.

**From the National Intelligencer.**

It remains for us only to add that eminent talent has been engaged in the preparation of the various parts of the pending work. The articles, moreover, have all been written, or rewritten, expressly for this Cyclopædia, which is thus almost entirely new, and as nearly original as it is practicable for such a work to be.

**From the Richmond Examiner.**

The ample means, enterprise, and energy of the publishers have enabled them to secure the services of the first men of this country, as well as of England and Europe.

**From the St. Louis Democrat.**

The various articles have been intrusted, as far as possible, to writers whose studies, position, opinions, and tastes were a guarantee of their thorough information; and this furnishes a presumption of their impartiality.

**From the Pittsburg Chronicle.**

Eminent legal, medical, and theological essayists, naval and military officers, artists, statistes, political economists, practical machinists, and experienced engineers—all furnish valuable contributions; and surely never was such an array of talent, or such an abundance of writers engaged on behalf of any one book.

**From the Baltimore American.**

All the collaborators, nearly one hundred in number, have entered into the work with the heartiest zeal, governed by the most liberal and American spirit of union; all share precisely alike—the most distinguished professor and the most obscure contributor.

**From the Lancaster Examiner.**

Several eminent medical and legal authorities, both in New York and Boston, furnish contributions in their respective departments; and from a large catalogue of writers, which we have been permitted to inspect, we are confidently of opinion that such an array of talent and intelligence has never before been combined in a single publication of the American Press.



### From Various Journals.

Among the contributors to the earlier volumes are Hon. Edward Everett, Prof. Felton, of Harvard; Prof. Johnson, of Yale; Prof. Peaslee, of N. Y.; Prof. Gilman, of New York; C. L. Flint, Secretary to the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture; Prof. Alcott, of Westchester Agricultural School; Prof. Cutting, of Rochester University; Dr. Adolf Douay, of Boston; Jas. T. Hodge, E. W. Youmans, of New York; Rev. O. B. Frothingham, of Jersey City; Rev. C. H. Brigham, of Taunton, Mass.; Rev. Thomas Hill, of Waltham, Mass.; Count de Gurowski; Baron de Trobriand; M. Paul Arpin; M. Brown-Sequard, of Paris; Dr. Hugh Doherty, Mr. Carl Marx, of London; Ralph Waldo Emerson; Richard Hildreth; Henry T. Tuckerman; William Gilmore

Simms; Henry W. Herbert; O. A. Brownson, LL.D; Parke Godwin; George W. Curtis; E. G. Squier; Edmund Quincy; Osmond Tiffany; John R. Thompson, of the Southern Literary Messenger; Charles G. Leland; Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie; Richard K. Cralle, of Virginia; Dr. J. W. Palmer, of Maryland; Wm. Henry Hurlbut, of South Carolina; W. L. Symonds of Harvard University; Mr. Julius Bing; Mr. Herman Raster, of the *Abend Zeitung*, New York; Samuel Kneeland, Jun., M.D., Boston; George S. Hillard, Boston; Nathan Hale, Jun., Boston; Capt. Geo. S. Blake, U. S. N., Principal of U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis; Nathan Rice, M.D., New York; the Rev. A. F. Hewett, C. S. S. R., the Rev. W. H. Neligan, D.D., Fordham College, N. Y.

## Its Entertaining Style.

### From the N. Y. Home Journal.

The variety of pens prevents an otherwise inevitable monotony of style; and the work, instead of being a mere dictionary—a stupid epitome of dry facts and dates—is made up of attractive and readable matter—scholarly and sparkling essays, necessarily brief; fresh biographies of living and dead celebrities, &c. &c. Many of the papers are admirable specimens of English composition.

### From the Baltimore American.

Its vivacity is a very attractive feature, and in this it totally differs from the usual heavy solemn tone of such publications, whose dry detail is proverbial. The New American Cyclopædia, on the contrary, conveys its intelligence in a lively, pleasing manner, thereby forming a very readable work. Moreover, its plan of embracing distinguished living personages is entirely original.

### From the Boston Transcript.

Now you may become absorbed in an able treatise on Agriculture, embracing the latest scientific experiments; and, again, lose yourself in a description of Aqueducts or Almshouses.

### From the Pittsburg Chronicle.

So attractive is the treatment of the various themes, so easy, simple, and natural the styles of writing, that we predict its speedy and universal adoption, as by far the best and most complete work of its character extant.

### From the Boston Post.

Flippancy and frivolity are out of place in Cyclopædias; but whenever the nature of the subject invites to it, it would be as ridiculous to be dull upon brilliant, as to aim at brilliancy on dull subjects. The article on Adventurers is full of cosmopolitan smartness; some of the classical articles are done with great force.

### From the N. Y. Evening Post.

This Cyclopædia is more readable than any other that we can call to mind; subjects are presented in their popular aspects, and the reader is led, by natural and pleasant processes of thought, to the investigation of the most recondite phenomena, without a suspicion that he is walking perhaps amid the most recent excavations of science and philosophy.

## Its Freshness.

### From the Providence Daily Journal.

The scientific articles are full and clear, and the subjects treated are brought down to the latest day, thereby embracing the most recent discoveries.

### From the Philadelphia Press.

There will be the advantage of giving the latest information in all cases. In biography especially

this will be the case; as memoirs of living persons are given, wherever their eminence warrants it.

### From the Boston Journal.

The New American Cyclopædia will have the advantage over the Encyclopædia Americana, in being more modern, and consequently fuller and more reliable, in treating of the arts and sciences, which are constantly progressing.



**From the N. Y. Evening Post.**

The articles on Age, Agriculture, Anthracite, Aliment, Anatomy, Anti-Rentism, &c., are all compact with information brought down to the latest date. Under the title "Aqueduct," we have not only an account of all the aqueducts of the old world, ancient and modern, but also of the Croton, the Brooklyn, the Jersey City, and the Boston.

**From the Woonsocket Patriot.**

One of its greatest merits is that it gives us the latest information concerning the progress of the arts and sciences, whose march is ever onward.

**From the National Intelligencer.**

The scientific articles are evidently the productions of learned and accomplished men. Many of the papers deserve especial commendation, as presenting the latest developments in their various departments of research.

**From the N. Y. Courier & Enquirer.**

To the information to be found in other cyclopædias it adds the fruits of recent discoveries, and infuses it with a fresher and more lively spirit; and to the subjects treated of in those works it adds others which have escaped the attention of their editors, or which have been brought into view by the progress of affairs and the advancement of the race.

**From the Hartford Daily Courant.**

The work being written up and posted to the latest moment, of course there can be no comparison, in the freshness and raciness, and aptness to human wants, between this work of 1858 and that (the Encyclopædia Americana) of 1835.

**From the Springfield Republican.**

Some of the articles are condensed and others enlarged, and the whole liberally interspersed with names and matters that have never found themselves inside a cyclopædia before.

**From the Baltimore American.**

As a compend of the latest inventions, in which the present century has been so very prolific, it will at once take precedence over every other work extant.

**From the Boston Post.**

Another feature of the New Cyclopædia is the fact that it is brought down to the latest date. The Britannica and Penny Cyclopædias of 1857, for instance, do not extend their information to that year, but only to 1854-'5, even if they go so far.

But here many recent events are chronicled and condensed with great fidelity—as, for instance, the incidents of the Crimean War (Alma); and, to our surprise, we find noted English commanders who have perished in the Indian rebellion sketched in this spirited Cyclopædia, among which is that of Anson.

**From the Richmond Examiner.**

The work promises, from the contents of this first volume, to be the very latest, as well as the very best, of modern encyclopædias.

**From the Worcester Transcript.**

I have examined several articles to ascertain if the promise to give the latest information is made good, and have uniformly found such to be the case. Thus, in the article on Africa are condensed the results of Barth's, Livingstone's, and Anderson's investigations. The Croton and Cochituate aqueducts are described in the article on that subject; while under the word Alma, we have a detailed account of the first great battle in the late Crimean war.

**From the Pittsburg Gazette.**

The various cyclopædias upon which the world has depended, such as Rees' for example, were perfectly good, doubtless, in their day; but they have in great part become obsolete. What was put down for a fact fifty years ago, has probably for some time been proved a fancy. The light which has been shed upon chemistry, for instance, by Faraday, Silliman, Humboldt, Berzelius, and a host of kindred spirits, scattered through the pages of hundreds of books sealed to the great mass of the people, will be focalized and brought to our eyes in this great work.

**From the Jamestown Journal.**

The work is intended to treat of every topic in the whole range of general knowledge, and being modernized clear up to the time at which it is written, it will possess a superiority to the American reader over any dictionary of general knowledge now in use.

**From the N. Y. Times.**

Its freshness and general thoroughness give it a decided advantage over any cyclopædia of its class, hitherto issued on either side of the Atlantic.

**From the Boston Post.**

The editors wish the writing to precede the printing as little as possible, in order to bring the information on every topic down to the latest day possible.



## Its Cheapness.

### From the Indianapolis Daily Journal.

It is intended to be a book of reference, frequently used, durable, and not beyond the means of a poor man. These requirements are fully met.

### From the Philadelphia Press.

The cost, too, is in its favor. The price is \$3 a volume, against the Encyclopædia Britannica at \$5—giving the whole for \$45 against \$105 for the other, even should the Encyclopædia Britannica not exceed twenty-one volumes. To be sold for less than half the cost, to be issued within a short and defined period, and to bear comparison with every work of the kind yet published, are the leading features of this new, we might say this National work.

### From the Boston Journal.

Those of limited means will be enabled to purchase it volume by volume, without so sensibly feeling the outlay as they would if the whole sum were required at once. Those families who possess it, when complete, will have upon their shelves a valuable library.

### From the Jamestown Journal.

It will be within the reach of all. Apprentices and merchants' clerks can procure the work as well as anybody, and with less cost to them weekly (if they take it in numbers) than many of them expend nightly for cigars and beer.

### From the Brooklyn Eagle.

The articles on the Adamses (John, John Quincy, and Samuel) are well worth the price of the book.

### From the N. Y. Courier & Enquirer.

The New Cyclopædia furnishes a greater amount of information, in a more interesting manner, and a more accessible shape, than can be obtained in any other quarter for four times the sum that it will cost, even were it to extend to twenty volumes.

### From the St. Louis Democrat.

The value of this work to every man of intelligence and learning can hardly be estimated. Nearly every reading man can afford to purchase it; and it will surprise us if the New Cyclopædia does not find its way to the fireside of every intelligent family in the Union.

## Summing up.

### From the New Yorker.

It is a Cyclopædia, not limited in its subjects, but taking in the whole range of appropriate topics; it is new, being derived from the latest sources; it is American in its temper, spirit, and miscellaneousness; popular, because lying within the apprehension of all classes of readers; a dictionary for its readiness and convenience of reference. And when we come to the editorship, we find as directors of this undertaking, requiring such wide sympathies, varied information, and quick insight, two of the leading public journalists of our day, practised in all these requirements, and capable by the liberal culture of their daily employment to throw open all the doors, windows, and accesses of knowledge, as no men of a more limited vocation and less habitually in the use of their spirit of appreciation and adaptation, could by any possibility show themselves equal to. Individual articles of special merit might be pointed out—but all is entitled to commendation; for the work is as truly done where much not needed is omitted, as where much, being needed, is said. We may seem to pay this New Cyclopædia a singular tribute when we conclude a notice which acknowledges its manifold merits of research, style, speciality, and reliability, by stating that we have found the *continuous reading* of it as entertaining as if instead of being a book of matter-of-fact it had been a romance from the pen of a master. In fact, it is universal knowledge popularized; and whoever can read at all can enjoy the possession and perusal of the New Cyclopædia.

### From the Boston Pilot.

The editors have done a great service to the cause of true learning. If the work, in its completed state, shall come up to the standard of this inaugural volume, it will be, without question, the very best (as well as the cheapest) Cyclopædia ever published.

### From the Detroit Advertiser.

Such a work cannot, or should not, and we are confident will not, fail to attain a great popularity, and achieve a great success. Embracing, as it does, the results of the latest investigations of science, the latest inventions in mechanics, the latest labors of art, the labors of the ablest minds in literature, how can it be otherwise?

### From the New York Evangelist.

Take it all in all—for the strict purposes of a Cyclopædia; for a clear survey of all the departments of human knowledge; for embracing every important topic in this vast range; for lucid and orderly treatment; for statements condensed, yet clear; for its portable size—not being too large nor too small; for convenience of reference, and for practical utility, especially to American readers, it is incomparably the best work in the English language.

### From the Southern Literary Messenger.

The debt of gratitude the publishers have imposed upon the country, by an enterprise of such magnitude and importance, will be recognized, we trust, in a vast army of subscribers.



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# THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA.

THE PUBLISHERS SUBJOIN A SELECTION OF TESTIMONIALS, FURNISHED  
BY EMINENT MEN.

**From Prof. B. Silliman, Sen., late of Yale  
College.**

The New American Cyclopædia, a Popular Dictionary of General Knowledge. Edited by George Ripley and Charles A. Dana. Vol. I.

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 27, 1858.

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

GENTLEMEN:

I have attentively examined the volume named above, and, as you ask for my opinion, I freely give it. I have fully perused a considerable number of articles—especially the longer ones; have read, *passim*, many more—fully enough to enable me to obtain a correct idea of their contents and of the execution; and have glanced at all the headings through every page of the book.

I am free to say that I have been both instructed and interested, and have found all the hours that I could command, during the four days that the volume has occupied me to the exclusion of other books, to pass so agreeably, that I have lingered among the rich articles of this work, and have found it a recreation rather than a labor. History, Biography, Geography, Topography, Geology, and General Science and Art, in many of their most important branches, are treated with perspicuity, correctness, and discrimination, and not a few of the articles are so full that they present a summary and synopsis quite sufficient for the general reader. The American edition of the (original) German Conversations-Lexicon, so ably enlarged and perfected by the learned Professor Lieber, now of Columbia College or University, New York, presents a *model work*, to which this new Cyclopædia is a fit successor and companion. The latter has, moreover, the important advantage of presenting a still greater amount of original American materials, including the most recent researches, skilfully interwrought with the foreign matter, and thus forming a beautiful and rich literary mosaic, while it is, as far as I have observed, free from any trace of national vanity. I believe we may feel assured, if the future volumes are brought out with the ability and fidelity which are so conspicuous in this first volume, that the entire work will form an important addition to American literature and science, which have accumulated treasures so important and diversified that there is now a fair field for their full display. We are now in a condition to make available returns for our large drafts upon the science and arts of Europe.

I remain, gentlemen, with my best wishes for your success,  
Very respectfully yours,

B. SILLIMAN, SEN.

**From Washington Irving, Esq.**

SUNNYSIDE, Jan. 6, 1858.

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

GENTLEMEN:

The copy of the first volume of the New American Cyclopædia, which you have had the kindness to send me, having remained some time in the hands of my publisher, in New York, has but recently reached me.

From the specimen before me, it promises to be a work of great merit and utility, and universal acceptance. For the credit of American literature, which is closely connected with such an undertaking, I am happy to see that the work will be edited by such able hands as Messrs. Ripley and Dana.

My nephew, Mr. Pierre M. Irving, will furnish you with information for the article which you specify. Very respectfully, gentlemen,

Your obliged and humble serv't,

WASHINGTON IRVING.

**From the Hon. Thos. H. Benton.**

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 28, 1858.

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

GENTLEMEN:

Mr. Shillington delivered me, a week ago, your presentation copy of the first volume of the New American Cyclopædia, and I have taken time to examine it before making my acknowledgments for your obliging attention in sending it. I have looked through it, and find a work (commenced with a promise of successful completion) which the age and the state of our country require. We have many works embracing the general circle of human knowledge; but the world is progressive and utilitarian, and our part of it pre-eminently so; and, perhaps, there are no several centuries of the world put together that rival the progress which has been made in the first half of the century in which we live. A Dictionary of General Knowledge, on the plan of Messrs. Ripley and Dana's New American Cyclopædia, had become a want of the age, and the manner in which it has been executed, judging from the first volume, is worthy of the design. The great arts of condensation, of clear perception, and striking exposition of the essential parts of their subject, have been fully attained, and will give the reader a library of universal knowledge in a convenient compass, arranged for ready use, and attractively presented in the concise and perspicuous style appropriate to such a work.

Respectfully, &c.,

THOMAS H. BENTON.



**From the Most Rev. John Hughes, D.D.**

NEW YORK, *Feb.* 13, 1858.

I have read with care the first volume of the New American Cyclopædia. If the others, that are to succeed, should exhibit the same evidences of accuracy and just criticism, I think the learned editors will have conferred a public benefit at once on their country and its literature. I discover everywhere, traces of original and severe study, going to prove that this is not a slavish imitation of any similar work. So far as I am competent to form a judgment, I think this work eminently entitled to encouragement, and I trust the learned editors and the enterprising publishers will have no reason to regret the labor and expense which they are bestowing on their Cyclopædia, with a view to place in the hand of every reader a Compendium of Universal Knowledge which shall be, as by the first volume it promises, accurate beyond any preceding publication of the same kind.

† JOHN HUGHES, Abp. of New York.

**From William H. Prescott, Esq.**

BOSTON, *Feb.* 2, 1858.

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

GENTLEMEN:

I should sooner have made you an acknowledgment for the volume of your New American Cyclopædia, but I have delayed until I could make myself so far acquainted with it as to form an opinion of its merits. A work so extensive, which is the product of so many minds, must necessarily have some inequalities in the manner of its execution. As far as I have examined it, it seems, in general, to be conducted with great ability, showing a careful research into the topics treated, and conveying rich stores of information of the most various kinds. The articles on natural science are evidently furnished by scholars competent in their department; and the historical and biographical sketches are written in a style of classic elegance, and, where literary criticism is demanded, show much acuteness and nice discrimination.

The success of such a work must depend upon the judicious selection of the subjects treated, as well as on the scholarship and talent of the writers who discuss them. From the excellent specimen given in this first volume, and from the high character of the scholars charged with the superintendence of the Cyclopædia, we may form the happiest auguries for the future. Should the remainder be executed with an ability equal to that of this introductory volume, the reader will be furnished with a work—or rather, from its large extent, a whole library—on a vast variety of topics, which cannot fail to be of the greatest interest to the student, as well as the literary lounge.

Wishing you success in your enlightened and patriotic enterprise, I remain, gentlemen,

Very truly, your obd't serv't,

WM. H. PRESCOTT.

**From Rt. Rev. Horatio Potter, D.D., LL.D.,  
Provisional Bhp. (Prot. Episcop.) of N. Y.**

NEW YORK, *Feb.* 15, 1858.

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

I have to thank you for a copy of the first number of your New American Cyclopædia, and to express my gratification that so important and valuable a work has been undertaken by American editors and American publishers. It has been quite out of my power to do more than just look into it here and there; and, without supposing that it can be free from the imperfections incident to a work which is to emanate from persons holding very conflicting opinions, I feel quite sure that it will be marked by distinguished ability, and that, when concluded, it will be a vast storehouse of late and very important information—such a work as almost every intelligent person will be glad to have always near him for reference. I can only express the hope that so large an undertaking may be duly sustained and crowned with ultimate success. I remain,

Very respectfully and truly yours,

HORATIO POTTER.

**From the Rev. W. P. Strickland, D.D., Editor  
of the Christian Advocate and Journal.**

NEW YORK, *Jan.* 22, 1858.

I have examined the first volume of the New American Cyclopædia, published by the Appletons, New York, and can, without hesitancy, say, that it gives evidence of all that the publishers' prospectus claims for the entire work; namely—that of excelling all similar works in the richness, variety, and extent of its contents, as well as in the clearness and precision of its expositions. Its broad catholic character, in which it maintains perfect neutrality in all matters of mere speculation; the exact fairness with which it treats the doctrines and practices of every sect in religion and every party in politics, leaving the representatives of each to present their own expositions, is a rare feature and one which must commend it to universal patronage. The acknowledged ability of its editors, together with the number and qualifications of its contributors, is a sufficient guarantee that the remaining volumes will be equal to the first for the extent and accuracy of their matter.

W. P. STRICKLAND.

**From the Rev. E. H. Chapin, D.D., LL.D.**

NEW YORK, *Jan.* 30, 1858.

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

GENTLEMEN:

Although I have not yet had time to inquire, with that particularity which so important a work deserves, into the merits of the first volume of your New American Cyclopædia, I am struck, even on a cursory examination, with its copiousness, its variety, its careful accuracy, its freshness as to dates, its large amount of new matter, not to be found elsewhere, and its entertaining style. But I am especially gratified to find that the editors have, with equal sagacity and conscientiousness, fulfilled the promise held out in your prospectus—that, "abstaining from



all doctrinal discussions, from all sectional and sectarian arguments, the *New American Cyclopædia* will maintain the position of absolute impartiality on the great controverted questions which have divided opinions in every age." In this respect, the most exacting must award the work the merit of a singular catholicity. Its general fairness as to religious topics is as satisfactory as it would seem to be difficult to attain.

I think you have given to the public a truly American Cyclopædia, one which, for completeness and trustworthiness can hardly be surpassed.

E. H. CHAPIN.

**From the Hon. Henry Barnard, LL.D., Sec. of the Conn. Board of Education.**

WASHINGTON, *Dec. 27, 1857.*

DEAR SIR:

I have examined the first volume of the *New American Cyclopædia*, published by D. Appleton & Co., and have no hesitation in pronouncing this volume the best specimen of a Popular Dictionary of General Knowledge—full in its range of topics, and at once thorough and condensed in the information given—with which I am acquainted. It promises, beyond any American or English publication, to supply the books, or rather the library, of reference for teachers and pupils in all our schools, and for the general reader in the family—so much needed.

Yours, with respect,

HENRY BARNARD.

**From the Hon. James L. Orr, Speaker of the House of Representatives.**

WASHINGTON, *15th Jan., 1858.*

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

GENTLEMEN:

I have examined the first volume of your *New American Cyclopædia*, and am highly pleased with the general design of the work. The articles are judiciously selected, and the information they contain is comprehensive and critical. The work, when complete, will be invaluable in every public and private library.

Very truly yours,

JAMES L. ORR.

**From Prof. Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.**

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON,  
*January 12, 1858.*

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

GENTLEMEN:

I am much pleased with the plan of the *New American Cyclopædia*, and with its execution as far as it has been completed.

In behalf of this institution, I shall be pleased to receive a copy of the work. Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HENRY, Sec. S. I.

*Among the earlier subscribers to the New American Cyclopædia are the following names:*

WASHINGTON IRVING, Esq.

HON. GEORGE BANCROFT.

HON. THOMAS H. BENTON.

LIEUT. GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT,

Commander-in-Chief U. S. Army.

COL. JOHN C. FREMONT.

HON. EDWARD EVERETT.

HON. AUGUST BELMONT,

Late U. S. Chargé at the Hague.

WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT, Esq.

HON. JAMES L. ORR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

HON. LEWIS CASS,

Secretary of State.



- HON. HOWELL COBB,  
Secretary of the Treasury.
- HON. JEREMIAH S. BLACK,  
Attorney-General of United States.
- HON. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, of Illinois.
- HON. JAMES H. HAMMOND, of South Carolina.
- HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, of New York.
- HON. A. H. STEPHENS, of Georgia.
- HON. HUMPHREY MARSHALL, of Kentucky.
- HON. ELISHA DYER,  
Governor of Rhode Island.
- HON. JOHN R. BARTLETT,  
Secretary of State, Rhode Island.
- HON. HENRY BARNARD, LL. D.,  
Secretary of the Conn. Board of Education.
- RIGHT REV. HORATIO POTTER, D. D., LL. D.,  
Provisional Bishop (Prot. Episcopal) of New York.
- MOST REV. JOHN HUGHES, D. D.,  
Archbishop of New York.
- VERY REV. WILLIAM STARRS,  
Vicar-General.
- REV. E. S. JANES, D. D., LL. D.,  
Bishop in the Methodist Church.
- REV. BENJAMIN T. ONDERDONK, D. D., LL. D.
- REV. E. H. CHAPIN, D. D., LL. D.
- REV. ED. Y. HIGBEE, D. D., LL. D.
- REV. G. T. BEDELL, D. D., LL. D.
- REV. W. P. STRICKLAND, D. D.,  
Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.
- REV. R. J. TELLIER, D. D., S. J.,  
President of St. John's College, Fordham.
- REV. HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.
- REV. SAMUEL OSGOOD, D. D.
- REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.
- JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D., LL. D.
- PROFESSOR BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, SEN.,  
Late of Yale College.
- PROFESSOR C. C. FELTON,  
Of Harvard College.
- PROFESSOR JOSEPH HENRY,  
Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.
- PROFESSOR CHARLES ANTHON, LL. D.,  
Of Columbia College, New York.



E., they first discovered ice islands from the masthead. On the 16th, land was discovered, which proved eventually to be a portion of a vast antarctic continent, the existence of which was hitherto unknown. Steering along this land (which was entirely ice-bound) until the 22d, they then got soundings in less than 500 fathoms. On Jan. 23, the Vincennes explored Disappointment bay, a large inlet in the shore of the newly discovered continent, 25 miles wide and 15 deep, and situated in lat.  $67^{\circ} 04'$  S. and long.  $147^{\circ} 30'$  E. The dip of the magnetic needle here was  $87^{\circ} 30'$ , which proved that the vessel was very near the southern magnetic pole. The expedition a few days after actually passed the meridian of this magnetic pole. Capt. Wilkes computed its exact situation to be at that time in about lat.  $70^{\circ}$  S. and long.  $140^{\circ}$  E. When in long.  $142^{\circ} 40'$  E. and lat.  $65^{\circ} 54'$  S., having hitherto sailed along the shore, catching occasional sight of land, the vessel was forced to steer north before a driving south-east gale. Sailing south, they again sighted the land, and then traced its shores along from long.  $140^{\circ}$  E. to long.  $101^{\circ}$  E., finding that the coast gradually tended northward, so as to place them, when in long.  $101^{\circ}$  E., in lat.  $63^{\circ}$  S. Although the expedition was not able to effect a landing upon any portion of the actual shore (the ice-barrier extending in all cases to a distance of from 8 to 12 miles seaward), many different circumstances point to the conclusion that the shore traced is that of an uninterrupted continent. About islands there is invariably found a current from the south, which causes the ice to move. Here the ice-barrier was unmoved, and there was evidently no inlet leading south, through which a northerly current could escape. Moreover, the formation of the land was entirely different from that common to islands. The shores did not rise so precipitously from the sea. The water shoaled gradually toward the shore. The ice-masses were evidently grounded; and, where they had turned over, masses of rock, parts of the antarctic continent, were found embedded in the ice. From these and other evidences, Capt. Wilkes was led to the conclusion that from Ringold's knoll on the east, to Enderby's land on the west, the land exists in one uninterrupted line; and that the coast to the westward, gradually trends to the north.—In 1840, a French expedition, under Com. D'Urville, sailed from Hobart Town. They also discovered land and traced it in a continuous coast line between long.  $136^{\circ}$  and  $142^{\circ}$  E. Capt. James Ross commanded three English antarctic expeditions in 1841-'2. In these he brought further proof of the previously ascertained existence of a vast antarctic continent; and besides, succeeded in penetrating to lat.  $78^{\circ} 10'$  S., the highest south latitude ever attained.

ANTEDILUVIANS, a name given to the entire human family existing before the flood. There is little or no history of the antediluvians. A few verses in the writings of Moses

contain the sum of Jewish literature on that subject; and, while all nations have a tradition of a deluge, they are very nearly equally destitute of history on the subject. Even the chronology of the antediluvian age is involved in the greatest obscurity and contradiction of authorities. The nearest harmony that can be attained with regard to it, still leaves, between Josephus and the Septuagint version, a contested period of 686 years, and a still greater one between the Septuagint and Samaritan. The chronology founded on the Hebrew text is the one in common use, which makes the antediluvian period 1,656 years. Of the human family during this period we know very little that gives us an insight into their social or political life, or throws light on the great problems of philology or ethnology. If the antediluvians had a literature or were versed in any of the arts or sciences, the smallest vestiges of neither have survived the catastrophe which swept them from the face of the earth. It appears that they were under the patriarchal form of government, which argues for a limited development both of mental and physical resources, though it seems that they built cities and understood agriculture, and regarded the rights of property. There are also slight intimations that they had a knowledge of music and astronomy. We may also infer, from the circumstances related of Noah and his immediate posterity, that the antediluvians understood architecture, masonry, and something of chemical processes. They are recorded to have attained to great age. Human life appears to have averaged about 800 years. This circumstance is, in one view, favorable to the theory of a more civilized condition, as each could attain more knowledge and property in a lifetime, while in another view it argues a simpler mode of life than is consistent with protracted physical or mental labor. Burnet and Whiston have made some curious calculations in regard to the population of the antediluvian world, which result in the conclusion that there must have been upon the earth at the flood 10,737,000,000 inhabitants.

ANTELOPE, an animal of the family *antelopeæ*, ruminating mammalia, with hollow horns, conical, bent back, cylindrical or compressed, ringed at the base. The knee, or wrist, is in the middle of the fore leg. The occipital plane forms an obtuse angle with the frontal plane. The core of their horns is thin, consisting of a dense bone, often with a clear sinus within. Teats 2 or 4. Feet pits in the hind feet, and often in the fore feet also. Perhaps the most certain characteristic of the antelopes is the cylindrical and annulated form of their horns, which are never angular, or provided with prominent longitudinal ridges, like those of the sheep and goats, from which they are distinguished by this point of their construction. They are also generally, although by no means universally, distinguished by having the lachrymal sinuses, peculiar to the solid-horned ani-